

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Molan on October 9, 2008. The examiner's amendment has been made in order to place the application in condition for allowance. The details of the examiner's amendment are as follow:

- **The language of Claim 1 which reads:** "A gun tube support assembly in which the gun tube slides when a projectile is fired through the gun tube, the gun tube support assembly comprising: a plurality of support sections arranged annularly around the gun tube, each support assembly including: a bush housing; a cradle bush for the bush housing for receiving and supporting the gun tube and on which the gun tube slides within the gun tube support assembly when the projectile is fired through the gun tube; and a damping means sandwiched between the bush housing and cradle bush, for absorbing and damping kinetic energy emanating from the gun tube during the firing of the projectile through the gun tube." **is amended to read:** "A gun tube support assembly in which the gun tube slides when a projectile is fired through the gun tube, the

Art Unit: 3641

gun tube support assembly comprising: a plurality of separable support sections that when connected are arranged annularly around the gun tube, each support section including: a bush housing; a cradle bush for the bush housing for receiving and supporting the gun tube and on which the gun tube slides within the gun tube support assembly when the projectile is fired through the gun tube; and a damping means sandwiched between the bush housing and cradle bush, for absorbing and damping kinetic energy emanating from the gun tube during the firing of the projectile through the gun tube."

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants independent claim 1 reads over what is considered to be the closest prior art (Peritt) with regard at least to claim limitations directed to a plurality of separable support sections that when connected are arranged annularly around a gun tube, wherein each support section includes a bush housing, a cradle bush, and a damping means sandwiched between the bush housing and cradle bush. Further, it should be appreciated that the basis for allowing Applicant's independent claim 7 is clearly set forth on the record (claim 7, which was originally a dependent claim, has been rewritten as an independent claim including all of the limitation of the base claims it originally depended from).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GABRIEL J. KLEIN whose telephone number is (571)272-8229. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:15 am to 3:45 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571-272-6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/538,479  
Art Unit: 3641

Page 5

/J. Woodrow Eldred/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3641